



PRESS RELEASE

*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

Post Office Box 600
200 West Forsyth Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/232-2682
904/232-2620 (Fax)

80 North Hughey Avenue,
Room 201
Orlando, Florida 32801
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street,
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (Fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

October 31, 2002

**DAYTONA BEACH MAN SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS IN
PRISON FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL TO HAVE SEX WITH A MINOR**

Jacksonville, Florida— Thursday, October 31, 2002, United States District Judge Ralph W. Nimmons sentenced Ronald Duane Smith, age 69, Daytona Beach, Florida, to five (5) years' imprisonment followed by three (3) years' supervised release for foreign travel with intent to engage in a sexual act with a juvenile.

Smith was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation after allegations surfaced that Smith had traveled with three teenage boys, under questionable circumstances, to Costa Rica. The investigation identified witnesses who had seen Smith in Costa Rica engaging in sexual acts with a fourteen-year old boy who had traveled there with Smith from Jacksonville. Smith was subsequently indicted by a grand jury in the Jacksonville Division of the Middle District of Florida for foreign travel with intent to engage in a sexual act with a juvenile. On August 20, 2002, Smith pleaded guilty to those charges in United States District Court.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ronald T. Henry of the Jacksonville Division of the Middle District of Florida.